

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Syria/Germany

SUBJECT Reorganization of Syrian Army by German Officers

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1. Thirty Germans have been engaged by the Syrian Ministry of Defense to reorganize the Syrian Army along more modern lines. This advisory group is headed by General (Count) Von Strachwitz.* General Von Strachwitz is to be paid IS 1500 per month, and is to work directly under orders of the Syrian Commander-in-Chief. The other German personnel will receive salaries roughly approximating those that they received in the German Army.
2. There are seven technical experts who are to be used to revise the general organization, equipment, armor, gunnery, engineering, workshops, and air force, as well as military intelligence and counter-intelligence activities, of the Syrian Army. The rest of the Germans will be employed in the general training of troops.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment. A fairly reliable source reported in November 1948 that a number of high-ranking German officers had been recruited by the Syrian Army to serve as advisers. Among these officers was General (Count) Red Von Strachwitz, a former Panzer general. A General (Count) Hyazinth Strachwitz is listed in the Order of Battle of the German Army in 1945 as a Major General in command of "Grossdeutschland" Panzer Division, which was active in the Narva and Silesia areas.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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